

CONFIDENTIALCLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY PolandREPORT NO.

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TOPIC PW Camps in Siemianowice and Mikulczyce, Upper Silesia,

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Now Troop Camps

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 17 June 1950REFERENCES

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Siemianowice. (P 51/Y 67)

1. The following information on troop quarters was obtained up to December 1949.
The camp was located on the NW perimeter of Siemianowice, near a coal mine on the western side of the road to Michalkowice (P 51/Y 57).
The installation consisted of eight former German Reich Labor Service cantonment buildings, two large, low, brick buildings located outside the cantonment and still occupied by civilians, and several utilities buildings.
2. Polish troops gradually moved into the cantonment after July 1949. They numbered about 800 by December 1949. They arrived in groups of 30 to 50 and were issued uniforms only in the cantonment. Half of the troops were Congress Poles* and half of them were ethnic Germans from Upper Silesia and Poznan (P 53/A 26). They were from 18 to 20 years of age and, according to their own statements, were to go through a two-year term of labor service, followed by two years of military service. The troops wore brown uniforms. They wore epaulets without insignia, and NCOs wore epaulets with silver braids. Although no arms were observed, fire by submachine guns or light machine guns was repeatedly heard. Three days of the week were devoted to labor and three days to drill.

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Mikulczyce. (u 51/Y 48)

25X1 3. The following information was obtained in troop quarters [redacted] The camp was located east of Mikulczyce, formerly Klausberg, and consisted of six 60 x 12-meter low brick buildings which formerly housed German laborers, and several utilities buildings.

4. About 800 older civilians arrived at the camp and were issued uniforms in April 1949. [redacted] The troops, which included ethnic Germans, were to work in mines for three months and subsequently were to undergo their two-year term of military service. They wore brown uniforms. No insignia were observed.**

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25X4 [redacted] Comment: These Poles are from the area set up by the Congress of Vienna in 1814.

25X1 ** [redacted] Comment. The report again confirms that Polish troops, primarily committed to labor, are stationed in the Upper Silesian industrial

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[redacted] To house these troops cantonments near the mines were converted into troops quarters. Some of the troops were ethnic Germans from Upper Silesia, Poznan and Pomerania. At first these troops had been regarded as elements of the Service for Poland (SP.)

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25X1 [redacted] This assumption has been revised, however, to the effect that the troops belonged to the Polish Army. It is believed that these labor battalions are made up of politically unreliable men who are engaged primarily in labor activities and undergo only limited arms training.

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